

TEACHER GUIDE

Trash Talk!

TO: Teachers

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DATE: Fall 2005

Welcome to the 2005-06 school year of *Trash Talk!* Our themes for this issue are yard waste, buying recycled, and America Recycles Day, which will be celebrated nationally on November 15. Our activities reflect these topics. Because these activities are cross-curricular, we have given you many ideas to fit the needs and interests of your students.

This Teacher Guide supplements *Trash Talk!* by giving extension activities, as well as by listing specific activities, subject areas covered, and skills addressed. Journal and reuse ideas can be quickly implemented as daily work supplements to the proficiencies that you teach every day.

Activity	Subject Areas	Skills Addressed
"And Your Point Is?"	Language Arts	Identifying the author's main purpose
"Your Choice"	Math	Selecting the correct number sentence based on a word problem & Computation
"Searching for Recycling Success"	Science	Understanding the cycle of materials through the production process & Expanding vocabulary of terms related to recycling materials
"Professions for the Planet"	Social Studies	Identifying job titles based on a description of the work performed
	Language Arts	Decoding scrambled words based on context cues
"Compost Mix-Up"	Science	Demonstrating an understanding of how stages of a process relate to one another and the negative outcome related to a missed or misplaced step

While we believe we have created age-appropriate, high-interest activities, we welcome your thoughts and comments. Remember that *Trash Talk!* is produced locally to meet our needs in educating students about waste reduction and recycling. Please contact us with your suggestions or questions.

Reuse Ideas

Math

- ☐ The first America Recycles Day was held in 1997. Which America Recycles Day will we celebrate in 2005 (first, fifth, etc.)?
- ☐ Write $<$, $>$, or $=$ in the circle.
 $15 \times 3 \bigcirc 2 \times 15$ $15 - 12 \bigcirc 27 - 15$
 $27 - 12 \bigcirc 3 + 12$ $27 + 3 \bigcirc 15 + 16$

Language Arts

- ☐ Correct this sentence:
During the weakend, 15 families picked up much from the compost centre.
- ☐ Circle all of the adjectives in "Compost Mix-Up."
- ☐ Write the plural form of these words: appliance, bottle, fleece, newspaper, tile.
- ☐ Write these words in **ABC** (alphabetical) order:
close cans chasing carpet cardboard

Analogies

- ☐ farmer : crops :: _____ : trees
- ☐ steel : appliances :: _____ : jars

Social Studies

- ☐ Circle the correct answers:
A landfill operator works at a _____. landfill store
A writer works on a _____. TV computer
A forester might work in a _____. nursery pool

Science

- ☐ Cross out the word that does not belong:
appliance carpet factory fleece tile

Journal Writing Prompts

- ☐ Write a sentence using these words and phrases:
students, worms, vermicomposting, and teacher.
- ☐ Write two paragraphs from the perspective of a daily newspaper. You might describe what the newspaper sees, who it meets, what it has to say, etc. Be creative!
- ☐ Name and describe two jobs that you think would be stressful. Do you think any of the jobs in "Professions for the Planet" would be stressful? If so, why and how?
- ☐ Create a sentence that contains a scrambled word or phrase. See if your neighbor can unscramble it.

Goin' on a compost hunt

Fall is a great time to enjoy the outdoors and learn about what items will biodegrade (rot) and which will not. Understanding which materials biodegrade helps students understand how to compost and vermicompost. Take your students outdoors for a "Compost Hunt." Copy the blackline master on the next page and provide a copy to each student or group. Have them check off each item they find. After they return to the classroom, ask them to circle all of the biodegradable items. Talk about what happens to non-biodegradable items in a compost pile or left outdoors as litter.

Goin' on a compost hunt

Check off each of the items that you find while you are outdoors on your "compost hunt."



☐ Orange peel

☐ Apple core

☐ Banana peel



☐ Rotting fruit (or vegetable)

☐ Fresh weed

☐ Grass

☐ Leaf

☐ Newspaper

☐ Cardboard

☐ Twig or branch

☐ Plastic wrapper

☐ Fast food cup

☐ Drink bottle

☐ Bottle cap

☐ Stone or rock

☐ Other: _____



Circle the items above that will biodegrade (rot).

Teacher Keys

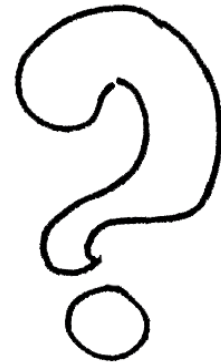
And Your Point Is?

The purpose of this paragraph is to ENTERTAIN.

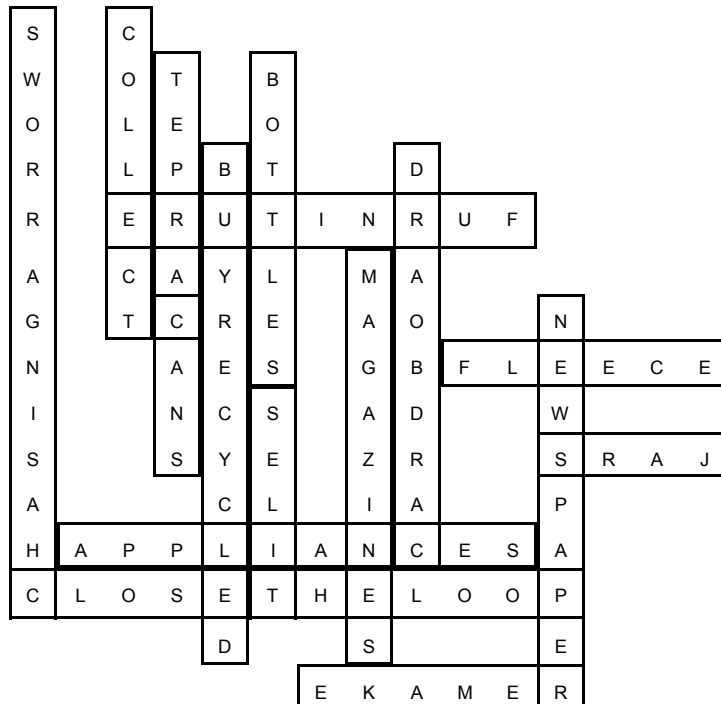
Your Choice

$15 + 12 = 27$ families

$27 \times 3 = 81$ cubic yards of mulch



Searching for Recycling Success



Professions for the Planet

vermicomposter
solid waste (engineer)
landfill (operator)
recycling (technician)
conservationist
forester
product (designer)
writer
teacher

Compost Mix-Up

- 1 Find a warm, well-draining place for your new compost pile.
- 2 On the ground, spread a layer of freshly cut grass....
- 3 Add a layer of carbon-containing "browns"....
- 4 Repeat, adding layers of dried leaves and cut grass....
- 5 After your pile is the right height, sprinkle....
- 6 After one week, sprinkle the pile if it seems dry.
- 7 Turn the pile once a month with a rake or shovel to provide oxygen.
- 8 Next spring, the compost should be dark....

